

SOLVING THE COUNTRY HOME PROBLEM

ALTERATIONS THAT MADE UGLY HOUSES INTO ATTRACTIVE PLACES



DETAIL OF ALTERATION IN W. B. DUNCAN'S HOUSE AT PORT WASHINGTON BY CARRERE & HASTINGS.



THIS ATTRACTIVE FARMHOUSE WAS MADE BY ALBRO & LINDBERG AT SHADOW BROOK.



THE HOUSE AS IT WAS.

To buy or to build is always the problem facing the man anxious for as much of the simple life as a country house near New York will supply. Probably in the majority of cases every man would like to build his own house. It is a strange man who has not developed some personal idea as to the sort of a house he wants, and if one with a soul so dead does exist it is practically certain that his wife is liberally supplied with very positive theories on the subject. It is an undeniable pleasure to see these carried out by an architect, to admit apologetically that you did have an architect although it was really to carry out your plans, of which he approved entirely, and to have the credit for designing a house which your friends will admire to your face and probably wonder how you could ever live in it once they are out of your hearing.

But such a means of satisfying one's vanity is expensive. It costs much more to build a new house than to buy one built by some more experienced man or woman who has wearied of the place. There are always houses in the market

to be had. There are always men and women so anxious to move into this place or that as to offer their property for very much less than it cost them.

Then there is a certain satisfaction in having the house altered to a degree that makes it entirely suitable to the new owner's needs. There is a chance for the same harmless gratification of vanity. One may be just as proud of improving an architect's work as of suggesting something entirely new to him.

The picture of the attractive farmhouse of Shady Brook Farm shows what may be accomplished by judicious alterations. The original was a dreary looking structure. To this has been added the ice house or summer kitchen or wood house characteristic of the Colonial New England homes, where the wood is put near the main house. This has been added by the architect, and although some planting would have undoubtedly added beauty to the house there is an agreeable feeling of exaggeration of the three roofs. The piazza has been removed from the main building and a simple Colonial entrance added. The piazza about the second building has been strengthened in appearance by the use of white columns to protect the roof that extends over the brick walk. Here the sweep of the roof is as effective as it is in the main building of the farm and both are in agreeable harmony with the low pointed roof of the new wing at the end. Of course alterations of such an elaborate character were not inexpensive, although the cost probably fell short of what a new house would have required. Certainly no new building could have reproduced so attractively the feeling of this genuinely American home. The Revolutionary cottage at Port Washington altered by Carrere & Hastings was very much disordered from its original use. There is nothing of the cottage about it unless it be the two story main structure. The dormer windows in the roof have been added, so has the rear extension of the kitchen and the wing not visible in the picture. The house stands on a slight ascent and a court has been cut in the ground in the rear of the wing not shown here which opens onto the level of this wing and the piazza of the cottage, forming a sunken court which serves the purpose of an outside room and adds space to the originally contracted house.

The details of the alterations of the W. B. Duncan house at Port Washington show both the original centre of the house and the wing. The wing with the piazza was added, while the central piazza and the sloping roof are also part of the altera-

tions. The W. B. Duncan house was a straight up in the air Victorian country house with all the worst traits of its period, but has been transformed through these alterations into a rambling, irregular building of great beauty and domestic feeling.

Alfred Busselle has added to the humble Chappaqua house a wing and so raised the essential part that it appears to have derived a full story from the change. The piazza, which stood formerly in front of the house, has been replaced in front of the new wing. Two of its columns serve to support the new entrance to the house, while two others are on the balcony added to the old wing of the house. There has been great increase in the roominess of the house in addition to a taste in design that retains much of the old character of the small country home while adding to it an architectural beauty that the other could not be said to possess. There is nothing of the character of the Revolutionary cottage in this little house. It is merely a type of country structure that has little in the way of line or feeling to recommend it. It is for that reason that completed alterations are such a credit to the designer.



THE OLD HOUSE.



REVOLUTIONARY COTTAGE AT PORT WASHINGTON, ALTERED BY CARRERE & HASTINGS.

ONION FARMING FOR WOMEN

It Is Neither Difficult Nor Laborious and It Is Profitable, Says One Who Has Tried It

"Though I'm not the onion queen of Texas, I make a good living at growing onions," said a prosperous looking young woman who passed through New York the other day on her way to Paris. "Oh, we have an onion queen in Texas. She is Mrs. E. C. Dodd and her farm is only a few miles out from Laredo. Her farm consists of more than 200 acres, nearly 250, I think, and her profits, I have heard, amount to more than \$75,000 a year."

"My profits are only about a tenth of that amount, though I have fifty acres planted in onions. They are all of the variety which you in the North know as the Bermuda, but the truth of the matter is that so many are being produced in Texas that you almost never get them from the little island that gave them their name."

"Onion growing is neither very difficult nor very simple. Like every other branch of farming both intelligence and hard work are necessary for success. I might also add that experience counts for something. In my own case it means an increase of \$1,000 a year in profits for the last three years."

"Beginning with ten acres the first year I made a clear profit of \$100 an acre. The next year I doubled my acreage and cut my profits in half. That was owing to lack of experience. The first year had been a fine onion year. The roots would have done well in the public road. The second year I used the same methods in spite of the fact that the season was unusually dry. I had made money one year without irrigation and I expected to do it again."

"The experience of that second year didn't do me any good at all. I proceeded to clear more land instead of digging all my capital and energy into growing onions. The result was a disastrous failure the third year. I was more than \$3,000 behind. If I hadn't got my fighting blood up and found some one willing to take a mortgage on my land I suppose my experience with onion growing would have stopped with that third year."

"Well, I managed to get over to see Mrs. Dodd and lay my case before her. She it was who advised the mortgage, because she had begun in that way, owing the land and mortgaging it to get the means of irrigation."

"Profiting by her experience I put in a pumping plant and dug a main ditch for watering my farm which at that time amounted to twenty-seven acres. That year was another fine season for onions, but I didn't permit my success to go to my head that time. Instead I continued to perfect my irrigation facilities until I had the entire tract of fifty acres under cultivation and with water ready for use wherever the season called for it."

"Unlike Mrs. Dodd's farm mine is some distance away from the shipping point. That makes considerable difference in the profits, but not any in the quality of the profits. I have followed her methods in grading and crating the onions and have always received the best market price for my crop. Of course having a smaller crop my work is finished before hers and I seem to have more time for travelling."

"It would be hard to say just what sort of land is best for onions, but mine, like Mrs. Dodd's, was the poorest sort of cactus covered land. When my father bought it I remember people said it wasn't fit for a goat pasture. It felt to me after his death and nobody looked upon me as having inherited a fortune. I don't suppose I should have thought of using it as an onion farm if it hadn't been for the success of Mrs. Dodd. It means a good deal sometimes to have another woman successful, especially if it is along a line that you can follow."

"Her land was just as poor as mine, but instead of having a creek running through one end of it she had a river, the Rio Grande, for one boundary. Then her land was almost within the city limits, while mine is nearly thirty miles away. In time perhaps when the roads are better this distance will not amount to so much, but at present it cuts down my profits considerably. Besides it is easier to get and keep labor near a town than it

is further away in the country. Mrs. Dodd has more than 200 Mexicans working for her and finds little difficulty in keeping them year after year."

"I mention these differences to show the difficulties as well as the advantages of onion farming in Texas. If any other woman thinks of going into the business by all means let her get near a town with good shipping facilities. She will find on investigation that the advantages I have mentioned add a good bit to her profit and also her comfort. There are a good many onion farms in my section of Texas, but none of them, excepting Mrs. Dodd's and mine, is owned and run by a woman."

"The woman farmer in Texas, as in all the other States, is the exception rather than the rule. I think onion growing is especially adapted to women farmers because the culture is neither difficult nor long. Of course I have seen plenty of cotton planting, but I much prefer the onions as a crop. It is sure where irrigation is used and the selling price is much more stable."

"I fertilize heavily and employ what is termed the intensive method, but because the work is almost all done by machinery it is not as difficult or laborious. The only really laborious part of the culture is setting out the young onions. This has to be done by hand, and though a child can manage it as well or better than a grown person it is hard to get enough labor at just the right season."

"The onion has very few enemies, which of course puts it far ahead of cotton as a sure crop. Besides the land that will produce the finest sort of onions would hardly be worth planting in cotton. As a vegetable the onion is among the best shippers, and so far it has proved one of the very best sellers. We ship onions from Texas to all parts of the country."

"Another reason why onion farming is especially adapted to the woman farmer is that about the surest way to get a fine complexion is to eat plenty of onions, raw or cooked."

A Harmony in Cane.

"There may be art in everything," said the householder.

"We had a cane seated and cane backed chair of which the seat had become worn out, while the back was still as good as new for practical purposes, though it had become somewhat browned with time."

"If we were people who didn't care for money we should have had both back and seat of this chair renewed so as to have them alive, but for economy's sake we had the seat done only. And then do you know what happened?"

"When the chair came back we found the new cane seat not right, in fact, in contrast with the back, but strained to harmonize with it."

"A simple thing? Surely. But art, for all that."

TO BE PRETTY THOUGH BUSY

BEAUTY RULES USEFUL TO THE WOMAN OF BUSINESS.

The Well Stocked Vanity Bag a Necessary Cold Cream in Eggshells—Looking Pretty a Knack to Be Acquired—Calisthenics and Smiling Exercises.

"That a woman works for a living is no reason why she should not be good looking," said a beauty culturist. "The London society woman who goes into trade keeps her good looks. It is practically the same with New York women in the 400. They are the best looking women in the world, though they work hard."

"It takes a great deal of talent to be good looking when one is busy. One must constantly be on hand the means of repairing damages. A New York society woman lost her travelling bag the other day. It was very little larger than a woman's wrist bag. What did the bag contain? The advertised list of its contents was very little more than a set of beauty articles."

"The British woman goes the American woman one better, for she keeps an outfit of beauty aids wherever she spends her hours. She owns half a dozen sets and she keeps them at her place of business, her town house and even her favorite afternoon tea place. It is these things that keep one from growing old."

"Salt air and salt water are hard on the complexion. The salt air nips holes in the skin. Every woman who has been in a salty atmosphere has noticed how her skin brightens after a little time to look pinker. For this the London woman keeps her vanity box well charged with cold cream. There is nothing like cold cream for a complexion injured by salt air or water."

"A London lady lost a little tan leather handbag and was much upset thereby. The bag contained only half a dozen eggs, but she would have given a pound each for the eggs."

"They were filled with sheep's fat, which she had tried out herself over a chafing dish. She had thinned the mixture down a trifle with scented sweet oil and had poured in attar of rose until it was sweet as odors of Araby. She had then filled the egg shells with the mixture and had stood them in flour until they hardened. She had then crocheted a little network of narrow pink ribbon

around the shells so that the eggs could be suspended at the side of the dresser. Thus she had the best of cold cream in convenient form."

"Looking pretty when one is working is a knack to be acquired. The stenographers of New York are examples of good looks among business women. Next to them come the titled English ladies who have taken to trade. A London woman who has been in this country studying the American shirt-waist in its perfection for a London concern says that she has certain rules from which she never deviates. She is, by the way, in society and her husband has a title."

"She has a printed list of things to do nightly which she consults. If too tired to consult the list she has her maid do it for her. She thinks it economy to keep a maid because of the importance of business of being well groomed."

"Her rules are mostly for evening use, for you can't be attending to your looks all day. Some of them are as follows: 'Let down your hair at night and shake it in the breeze. Do this all the year around, making exception of the very cold weather. On cold nights shake your hair dry in front of the open fire. This keeps it from getting gray. It is remarkable how hair is preserved by the simple process of nightly ventilation.'

"Second, don't rush your hair. Nothing pulls it out like a hair brush. If you want to make it shine rub it with a Japanese cushion."

"Make the cushion yourself out of a bit of velvet just the color of your hair. Let it be about eight inches square. Have two cushions if possible and rub your hair with them. Part it in the middle and rub hard on both sides until the hair gets glossy. The cushions can be moistened with attar or with oil of jasmine or with rose geranium oil. Any scented oil will do."

"Rub your cheeks with cold cream. If your cheeks sag dash them with water. Don't get soft cheeks. A good round hard cheek is pretty. The cheeks of the old are flabby. Don't let your skin lose its character."

"Don't forget your experience spots. When the business woman begins to think hard she gets these marks. They are right at the temples and the hair line shrinks away from them. Get rid of them if they are there by cooing the hair to grow on them. If necessary pin a hairpin curl over them."

Hairpin curls are a great resource

of the business woman. If she is wise she will have a box of them all in working order. With a dozen of these put judiciously here and there after the hat is spiked in place the business woman's face is softened."

"Hard face is what the business woman must guard against. There is a look which comes to the surface after one has been disappointed a few times. To combat this there is nothing like face stretching exercises."

"Stand in front of the glass and laugh each evening for five minutes. You may not feel like it, but it will wake up the grish muscles and take away hard face."

"Somebody when asked to criticize the business woman of over 30 said that she might be all right in business, but she was ridiculous to look at. When pressed this person, a man, said it was because she did not keep her hat on straight. He declared that the business woman of 40 simply had to wear her hat on one ear. She could not spike it on so it would stay."

"The London woman in business has solved the problem by wearing a hat that fits her head and by putting on many hats in it that it simply cannot slip over one ear. When she looks in the glass she doesn't have to straighten her hair."

"What is the dearest thing in the world to the French woman? Was a question which some one asked of Sarah Barnhardt. 'Her pocket mirror,' was the unhesitating reply."

"The woman who is working and wants to be pretty, though busy, should carry with her very much the same articles that the society woman habitually carries."

"You can't be well unless you eat candy. You can't keep up your strength unless you take a few bonbons in the middle of the morning and a few more in the middle of the afternoon. It is the English custom to take them with a cup of tea at 5 o'clock. Do as you please as to the tea, but don't forget the bonbons."

"Being pretty when you work means that your skin must be pale. This means

tor, novelist or stenographer, but if she works with her brain day times she must exercise her body at night before going to bed. This is to draw the blood from the head."

"If it were not so much trouble the tired woman with lines coming under her eyes might drive them away by putting her head under the warm water faucet at night. It is a great device among the Russian ladies who keep young."

"The business woman insists upon certain things. Ample these are: 'Shoes that look smaller than they really are.'

'Hair that keeps its color.'

'A hat that will stay on straight and not fall to one side.'

'Plenty of hairpin curls to be placed where they will do the most good.'

'Nice teeth.'

'Good plump flesh. The woman who is busy must not be fat, but she mustn't be lean.'

'And she must have a vivacious smile.'

THE YEAR WITHOUT A SUMMER.

Weather Eccentricities Recorded in 1910—From June.

The year 1910 was called the year without a summer, says the *Magazine of American History*.

As the springtime approached nothing in the weather indicated the return of seed time, much less of harvest. Snows, heavy rains and cold winds prevailed incessantly, and during the entire season the sun appeared each morning as though in a cloud of smoke, red and rayless, shedding little light or warmth and setting at night as behind a thick cloud of vapor, leaving hardly a trace of its having passed over the face of the earth. The frost never went off the ground until about the last of May. The farmers planted their seeds, but the seeds would hardly sprout and when at last it came to the surface the seedlings were not warm enough to cause anything to grow. During the month of June young birds were frozen to death in their nests, and for at least three years after very few birds visited the colder parts of the northern States. The woods and forests seemed deserted by them. Small fruit such as the junewberry ripened and rotted on the trees in the forests because of no birds to eat them.

Crops that required warmth, like corn, generally failed to mature and only here and there in a few places that seemed especially protected did an ear ripen. The people after repeated hopes of a change in the weather settled down in almost despair. Large spots appeared on the face of the sun, as seen through the smoky atmosphere, distinctly visible with the naked eye. Frost descended every month the whole year and almost daily, and in the few places where corn ripened was the only supply of seed for the next year, and it was held at an exceedingly high figure with now and then an exception.